

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 CU-02

USSS-00 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 /067 W

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O R 201703Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1895

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENANA

USNATO 595

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3441

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: QNOR, SP

SUBJ: JUNTA DEMOCRATICA PETITION TO AMBASSADOR

1. POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER RAUL MORODO CONTACTED POLITICAL COUNSELOR AT ABOUT 1300 TODAY AND REQUESTED BRIEF MEETING AT HOTEL BAR NEAR EMBASSY. AT MEETING, FOLLOWING SOME INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF DAY'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, MORODO PRESENTED POL COUNSELOR WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS PETITION FROM COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED JUNTA DEMOCRATICA, TO BE CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR, WHICH CALLS ON PRESIDENT TO CANCEL VISIT TO SPAIN.

2. WHILE DOCUMENT SHOWS LETTERHEAD OF "PERMANENT COMMISSION OF JUNTA DEMOCRATICA DE ESPANA", POL COUNSELOR NOTED TO MORODO THAT IT WAS UNSIGNED. MORODO EXPLAINED THAT NAMES OF JUNTA'S PERMANENT COMMITTEE ARE SECRET AND THAT HE AND OTHER OPPOSITIONISTS IN ANY EVENT WISH TO AVOID

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REPEAT OF 1970 EXPERIENCE WHEN SIMILAR POSITION SUBMITTED

TO VISITING SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM ROGERS RESULTED IN HEAVY GOVT FINES AGAINST ALL SIGNERS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EMBASSY WOULD "TAKE HIS WORD FOR IT" THAT DOCUMENT IS AUTHENTIC. HE SAID PETITION WOULD BE RELEASED TO LOCAL PRESS EVENING OF MAY 20. POL COUNSELOR SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT PETITION WITHOUT COMMITMENTS AND WITHOUT ANY ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD REACH THOSE FOR WHOM IT WAS INTENDED.

3. FREE TRANSLATION OF PETITION FOLLOWS:

"EXCELLENCY:

"JUNTA DEMOCRATICA OF SPAIN ASKS YOU TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT GERALD FORD THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNING THE TIMELINESS OF HIS PLANNED VISIT TO SPAIN:

"1. THE VISIT WILL HELP PROLONG THE EXISTENCE OF A DICTATORIAL REGIME THAT CAN NO LONGER SUPPORT ITSELF, AND IT WILL UNNECESSARILY IMPEDE THE GOOD RELATIONS THAT ARE DESIRABLE BETWEEN US AND THE FUTURE DEMOCRATIC SPANISH STATE.

"2. THE VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE AT A TIME WHEN TWO PROVINCES OF SPAIN ARE SUFFERING A STATE OF EXCEPTION AND WILL SIGNIFY APPROVAL OF THE REpressive ACTIONS IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY WHICH ARE CONDEMNED BY THE SPANISH PEOPLE.

"3 THE VISIT WILL COINCIDE ALSO WITH THE PERIOD OF GREATEST POLITICAL REPRESSION OF RECENT YEARS; KILLINGS AND TORTURES OF CITIZENS FOR POLITICAL REASONS; MASSIVE DETENTIONS; CLOSURES OF UNIVERSITIES; WITHDRAWAL OF PASSPORTS; BANNING OF LECTURES AND CULTURAL GATHERINGS; SEIZURE AND SUSPENSION OF PERIODICALS AND MAGAZINES; PROHIBITION OF THE PASTORAL WORK OF THE CHURCH AND JAILING OF PRIESTS; AND OVERALL DENIAL OF POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION FREEDOMS.

"IN THIS CONTEXT, THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT WOULD APPEAR BEFORE SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION AS THE POLITICAL LEGITIMATION SOUGHT BY THE DICTATORIAL REGIME IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE BASES AGREEMENTS. THIS QUESTION CAN ONLY BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE TRULY REPRESENTATIVE ORGANS OF THE AMERICAN AND SPANISH PEOPLES.

"THEREFORE, THE JUNTA DEMOCRATICA, TO PRESERVE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FUTURE GOOD RELATIONS THAT THEY WISH TO HAVE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES REQUESTS THAT PRESIDENT GERALD FORD DESIST FROM THE ANNOUNCED VISIT.

"MAY 20, 1975"

4. EMBASSY HAS SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED PRESS QUERIES, PRESUMABLY STIMULATED BY JUNTA, AS TO WHETHER PETITION HAD BEEN PRESENTED PERSONALLY TO AMBASSADOR BY JUNTA

REPRESENTATIVES. IN RESPONSE EMBASSY HAS LIMITED ITSELF
TO SAYING THAT AN UNSIGNED DOCUMENT PURPORTING TO BE
FROM AN ORGANIZATION CALLING ITSELF THE JUNTA DEMOCRATICA
HAD BEEN GIVEN TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY
PREMISES AND THAT THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE
ATTENTION OF THE AMBASSADOR.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
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